REMARKS

Telephone Conference/Restriction and Election

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his telephone call to applicants' representative on March 27, 2007. In the telephone conference, the Examiner set forth a restriction requirement identifying two groupings of claims: Group I, comprising Claims 1-36 and 49-62, and Group II, comprising Claims 37-48. The Examiner further requested an election of one group for prosecution.

To confirm the oral election made on March 27, 2007, applicants elect Group I (Claims 1-36 and 49-62) without traverse.

In light of the election made above, the non-elected claims of Group II (Claims 37-48) have been canceled.

Office Action

With regard to the elected claims (Claims 1-36 and 49-62), the Office Action of April 4, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action"), rejected Claims 1-9, 13-21, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as not directed to a practical application that produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Claims 13-24 and 61-62 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as having insufficient antecedent basis for an element of the claim.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-36 and 49-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,589, to Blewett et al. (hereinafter "Blewett"). Independent Claims 1, 13, 25, 49, and 61-62 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,024,658, to Cohen et al. (hereinafter "Cohen").

With this response, Claims 10, 12-24, 34, and 37-48 are canceled. Claims 1-9, 11, 25-33, 35-36, and 49-61 remain pending. Claims 1, 25, 49, 61, and 62 are independent.

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and for the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Prior to presenting the reasons why the applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, a brief summary of the disclosed subject matter and brief descriptions of the teachings of the cited references are provided. These summaries, however, are presented solely to assist the Examiner in recognizing the differences between the pending claims and the cited references, and should not be construed as limiting on the disclosed subject matter.

Disclosed Subject Matter

The disclosed subject matter is directed to providing a task library on a computing system. Unlike typical help systems where the various help files are independent sources of information/help directed to a single corresponding component, the disclosed subject matter describes a task library where task data corresponding to the various components on a computer system are integrated into a single collection. In addition to being in a single collection, task data corresponding to various sources are grouped together according to common subject matter. Still further, task data in the task library is configured such that a user can manipulate aspects of a component referenced by the task data from within the task library (i.e., without requiring the user to change context from the task library to the corresponding component).

The disclosed task library and associated methods and systems differ from typical help systems in at least the following ways: the task library integrates information (task data) from multiple components into a single source, and task data from the various components are linked together according to common subject matter (some task data being linked to multiple subjects) within the task library.

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U.S. Patent No. 6,327,589 (Blewett)

Blewett is purportedly directed to providing search services on files whose format is not a given help system's help file format. In particular, Blewett discloses that a list of web pages or HTML files are provided by a user to the Blewett system. Blewett, Col. 2, lines 45-46. These files are structured in an HTML format and include both title data and corresponding body data. Blewett, Col. 2, lines 45-48. The information in these structured files is retrieved and placed in a searchable database to be used in conjunction with existing help files. Blewett, Figure 3, block 325; Col. 3, lines 23-27. Moreover, a search can be conducted on multiple searchable databases. As part of placing file information into a searchable database, term-topic links are created. A term-topic link is a relationship between a particular term (such as the term "merge") and a corresponding topic (such as "how to merge cells in a table"). Blewett, Col. 7, lines 3-22.

While Blewett purportedly supports generating a searchable database from multiple sources, applicants point out that these searchable databases appear to be generated for individual components. Indeed, Blewett fails to disclose or teach obtaining task information for a plurality of components installed on the computer system. Blewett also fails to disclose or teach task data configured to modify aspects of a component from within the task library.

U.S. Patent No. 7,024,658 (Cohen)

Cohen is purportedly directed to providing an extensible help system. Particularly, Cohen discloses that, for a given software application, one or more help files may be provided, and further discloses that, for a given software application, the help system can automatically detect the addition of help files and integrate the added help files. Cohen further discloses creating help "recipes" that correspond to a collection of actions that carry out a particular function on the computer system with regard to the corresponding software application.

Cohen also purportedly discloses that some of the help tasks can selectively cause an operation corresponding to an interactive link to be performed by the computer software application based on the detected state. Cohen, Abstract.

While Cohen purportedly discloses adding additional help files to the help system for a software application, and further purportedly discloses help tasks that can selectively cause an operation to be carried out in the corresponding software application, applicants point out that this help system is directed entirely to a single software application. In other words, while the help system can add help files to the help system, the help files are added in regard to the same software application. Moreover, the ability to execute an operation from the help system on the corresponding software application is made in regard to the one corresponding software application. Cohen fails to disclose obtaining task information for a plurality of software applications installed on the computer system.

Indeed, while various help systems were known at the time of the present application, each was directed and tied to a single component (such as a software application or hardware device. The ability to integrate help information from a plurality of disparate components (both software and hardware components) installed on a computer system, as claimed in the pending application, was not known or contemplated in the prior art.

35 U.S.C. §101 Rejections

Claims 1-9 and 61 were rejected as not being directed to a practical application that produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result. In response, applicants have amended Claim 1 with the elements of Claims 10 and 12 (both of which were not rejected under § 101). Applicants have similarly amended Claim 61 with the elements of Claims 10 and 12. Applicants submit that these amendments are fully responsive to these specific 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections and, in light of the amendments, request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 13-24 have been canceled. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections of these claims are moot.

Claims 61 and 62 were rejected as being written such that they may include transmission media. Applicants have amended these claims to recite "a computer-readable **storage** medium." Applicants submit that these amendments are fully responsive to these specific rejections and request that they be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejections

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for including a recitation that lacked antecedent basis. Claim 10 has been canceled, but the elements of Claim 10 are hereby incorporated into Claim 1, which has been amended as suggested in the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections under Blewett

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-36 and 49-62 as being anticipated by Blewett. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Independent Claim 1

Applicants submit that Blewett fails to disclose:

> **obtaining task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer**, wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to the plurality of components, and wherein at least some task data corresponding to the plurality of components is configured such that the corresponding component may be manipulated from within the task library;
>
> **generating task links referencing the task data for the plurality of components** according to a predetermined schema

As set forth above, Blewett allows for the addition of additional help files for a single software application, and creating a searchable database for these files. Indeed, while this

service may be applied to multiple software applications, each application results in a help system for a single application. However, Blewett fails to disclose "**obtaining task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer**" and "**generating task links referencing the task data for the plurality of components.**"

Applicants submit that Blewett fails to disclose each and every element of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 2-9 and 11

Claims 2-9 and 11 each depend from independent Claim 1. As applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, applicants further submit that Claims 2-9 and 11 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of Claims 2-9 and 11 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Independent Claim 25

Independent Claim 25 recites similar elements to those found in Claim 1. In particular, Claim 25 recites:

> **task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer system**, wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to the plurality of components installed on the computer; and
>
> **task links referencing the task data of the plurality of components** generated according to a defined schema. (Emphasis added.)

As asserted above in regard to Claim 1, applicants again assert that Blewett fails to disclose "**task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer system**," and "**task links referencing the task data of the plurality of components.**"

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As applicants submit that Blewett fails to disclose each element, applicants submit that Claim 25 is in condition for allowance and request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 26-34 and 35-36

Claims 26-34 and 35-36 each depend from independent Claim 25. Claim 34 has been canceled. As applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, applicants further submit that Claims 26-33 and 35-36 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of Claims 26-33 and 35-36 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Independent Claim 49

Independent Claim 49 recites elements similar to those found in Claim 1. In particular, Claim 49 recites "retrieving a plurality of tasks from a task library, **the task library comprising a plurality of tasks from a plurality of components installed on the computer.**"

As discussed above, applicants submit that Blewett fails to disclose a "task library of a **plurality of tasks from a plurality of components installed on the computer.**" Accordingly, applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

Claims 50-60

Claims 50-60 each depend from independent Claim 49. As applicants submit that Claim 49 is in condition for allowance, applicants further submit that Claims 50-60 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of Claims 50-60 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

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<u>Independent Claim 61</u>

Independent Claim 61 recites elements similar to those found in Claim 1. In particular, Claim 61 recites

> **obtaining task data for a plurality of components installed on a computer,** wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to the plurality of components, and wherein task data corresponding to at least one component of the plurality of components is configured such that the corresponding component may be manipulated from within the task library; and

> **generating task links referencing the task data of the plurality of components** according to a predetermined schema. (Emphasis added.)

As discussed above, applicants submit that Blewett fails to disclose **"obtaining task data for a plurality of components installed on a computer,"** and **"generating task links referencing the task data of the plurality of components,"** as recited in Claim 61. Accordingly, applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

<u>Independent Claim 62</u>

Independent Claim 62 recites elements similar to those found in Claim 49. In particular, Claim 62 recites "retrieving a plurality of tasks from a task library, **the task library comprising a plurality of tasks from a plurality of components installed on the computer."**

As discussed above, applicants submit that Blewett fails to disclose "a task library of a **plurality of tasks from a plurality of components installed on the computer."** Accordingly, applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

<u>35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections under Cohen</u>

Independent Claims 1, 13, 25, 49, and 61-62 were rejected as being anticipated by Cohen. As discussed above, Cohen is directed to enhancing the help system of a single application. Of
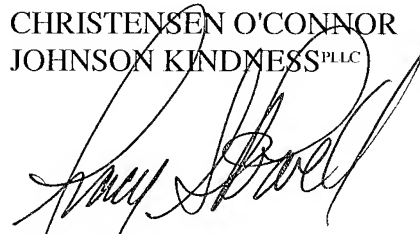
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course, the help systems of many applications can be updated using the Cohen system, but Cohen fails to disclose a single help system that is directed to a plurality of components installed on a computer system, which is generally recited by each independent claim. As Cohen is directed to a single application and fails to disclose a task library having task data from a plurality of components installed on a computer, applicants submit that Claims 1, 25, 49, and 61-62 are in condition for allowance, and request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number provided below should any questions or issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}

Tracy S. Powell
Registration No. 53,479
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1786

TSP:lal

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

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